



CITY OF HOLLISTER

PUBLIC WORKS – UTILITY DIVISION

375 Fifth Street - Hollister, CA 95023-3876

2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

for the
City of Hollister Water System

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

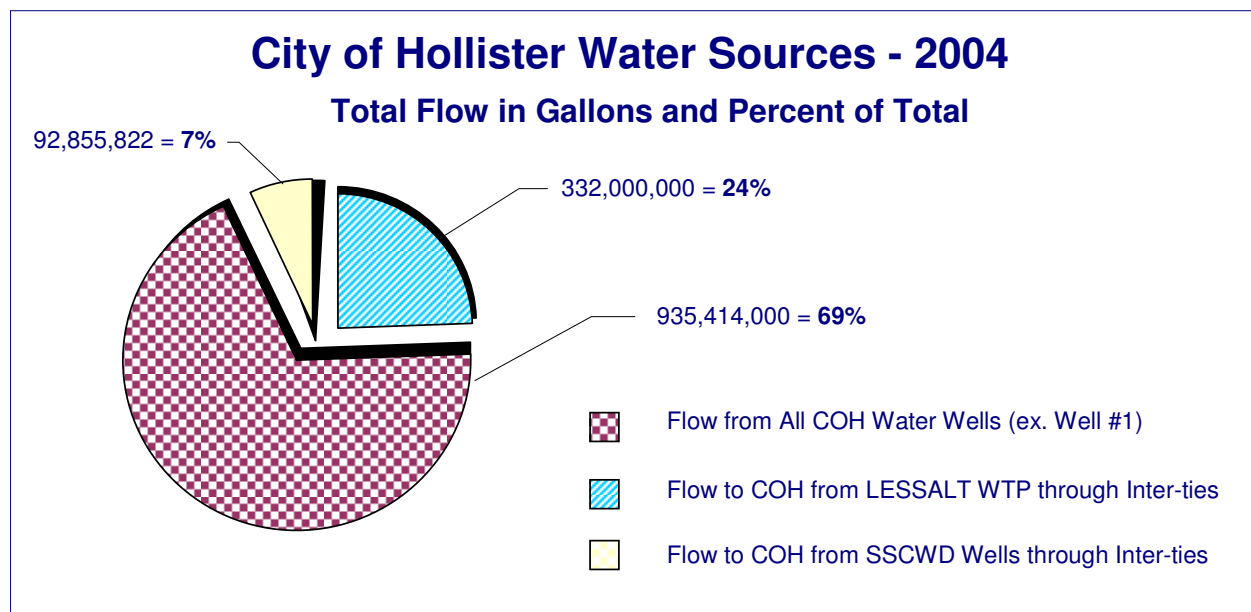
We're pleased to provide to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. The purpose of this report is to increase your understanding and confidence in the quality of drinking water delivered to you by the City of Hollister Water System. Our constant goal is to give you a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

Please note that tenants, employees and students may not receive this report since they are not direct customers of the City. Please make this report available to such people by distributing copies or posting in a conspicuous location. This report is also available on-line at <http://www.hollister.ca.gov/site/index.asp>; then click on public works, utility, and water.

Time and place of regularly scheduled meetings for public participation: The City Council normally meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 375 Fifth Street, Hollister. Area water issues are discussed, and the public is welcome at the Water Resource Association of San Benito County, which also meets at City Hall, 375 Fifth Street, on the first Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m.

WATER SOURCES

During the year 2004, the City of Hollister obtained 69% of its potable drinking water from its seven active deep groundwater wells located throughout the City and Cienega Valley, 24% from San Felipe surface water, treated at the LESSALT Water Treatment Plant, and 7% through distribution system inter-ties with the Sunnyslope County Water District. The quantities and percentage from each source of water for the City of Hollister Water System are graphically displayed below and reported in tables with water quality data.



WATER QUALITY

The City of Hollister is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe, as it meets all Federal and State requirements. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The City of Hollister routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Unless otherwise noted, the following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2004. The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Other sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs and springs. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ◆ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- ◆ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water quality monitoring information for all sources to the City of Hollister Water System is available in tables shown in the various sections of this report. Additional water quality data is provided for regular monitoring performed in 2004, throughout some forty-five miles of water distribution system.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION

Groundwater: An assessment of the City of Hollister Groundwater Well Sources (Hollister Wells #1 through 6 and Cullum #1 and #2) is still forthcoming. Upon completion, summaries may be viewed at the address below:

Surface Water: An assessment of the LESSALT Water Treatment Plant Surface Water Source was completed in March 2002. This source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Recreational Area, Government Agency Equipment Storage, Road, Streets, Septic Systems, Sewer Collection Systems, Grazing Animals, Farm Machinery, Wells and Irrigation.

A copy of the summaries of the completed assessment(s) may be viewed at:

City of Hollister
Utility Division
1291 South St.
Hollister, CA 95023

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions of terms and abbreviations are provided to help you understand our test results in the tables displayed below.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards: refer to those constituents present in water, which do not affect the public health. These tests are performed to assure that your water meets certain aesthetic standards in appearance, odor and taste that are unenforceable.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are to monitor and control the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Public Health Goal or PHG – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California Environmental Protection Agency sets PHGs.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates a contaminant is not detected at reporting limit.

Non-Applicable (NA) – Is not applicable in this situation.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – 1 part per 1,000,000 - a measurement of concentration on a weight or volume basis.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) – 1 part per 1,000,000,000 - a measurement of concentration on a weight or volume basis.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) are produced in the course of treatment as by-products of the chlorination process. Some THMs are thought to be cancer causing agents at certain levels. The California EPA MCL for Trihalomethanes is 80 parts per billion (ppb).

Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) - is a gasoline additive for which our groundwater sources were analyzed in 2003, and was not detected.

Treatment Technique – TT - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Notification Level – NL - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper Testing - The 1994 Federal Lead & Copper Rule mandates a household testing program for these substances. According to the rule, 90% of the samples taken from high-risk homes must have levels less than 0.015 milligrams per liter of lead and 1.3 milligrams per liter of copper. If our results are above the 90% Action Level, corrective measures are to be taken. A high risk home is defined as a structure that contains lead pipes or copper pipes with lead solder installed between January 1983 and June 1986. City of Hollister Water System's Lead and Copper results (1993-2004) have always been below the Action Level.

New analytical instruments and techniques make it possible to measure levels of constituents in water that were undetectable in the past. The water quality results in this report show parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l) and even parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (ug/l) of detectable substances.

Analytical tests were done for many additional constituents not listed in this report. Results were below detection limits.

Table 1 - Sampling results showing the detection of coliform bacteria

Microbiological Contaminants	No. Samples Collected - 2004	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	24 to 30 per month	(In a mo.) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	312 Annual Total	(In a year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E. coli	0	Human and animal fecal waste

Table 2a - Distribution System Customer Tap Sampling for Lead and Copper

Contaminant	No. Samples Collected	90th Percentile Result	No. Sites Over NL	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb) 9-13-04	30	ND	0	15	2 (NA)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Health Effects Language	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level may experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children may show slight defects in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years may develop kidney problems or high blood pressure					
Copper (ppm) 9-13-04	30	0.15	0	1.3	0.17 (NA)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Health Effects Language	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.					

Table 2b - Disinfection Byproducts – Disinfection Residuals throughout Distribution System

Contaminant (Reporting Units)	# Samples, Frequency	Avg (Range)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Likely Source Contaminant	Health Effects Language
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	20 Samples Qrtly	33.0 (0.6-140)	80 (Avg. of 4 Qtrs.)	NA (NA)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	20 Samples Qrtly	7.3 (ND-48.0)	60 (Avg. of 4 Qtrs.)	NA (NA)	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Chlorine (ppm)	6 Samples Weekly	0.42 (0.01-1.80)	[MRDL = 4.0] (as Cl ₂)	NA [MRDLG = 4.0] (as Cl ₂)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	NA

Table 3 - Primary Regulated Contaminants

Water Source - Percent Flow From Each →	COH Wells 69%	LESSALT Surface H ₂ O 24%	SSCWD 7%	COH = City of Hollister Well Water (7 Wells) Lessalt Surface H ₂ O = Surface Water Treatment Plant SSCWD = Sunnyslope County Water District Well Water (4 Wells)			
Contaminant (Reporting Units)	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Health Effects Language
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	4.11 0.342 -7.60 3-19-03	2.19 (ND-6) 7-9-02	4.32 (2.2-6.58) 12-10-01	15	NA (0)	Erosion of natural deposits	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Aluminum (ppm)	ND (NA) 6-28-02	0.08 (ND-0.08) 2-17-04	ND (NA) 2-26-03	1	0.6 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing aluminum in excess of the MCL over many years may experience short-term gastrointestinal tract effects.
Arsenic (ppb)	1 (ND-3) 6-28-02	ND (NA) 2-17-04	1 (ND-3) 2-26-03	50	0.004 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards	Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Contaminant (Reporting Units)	COH Wells Avg (Range) Date	LESSALT Avg (Range) Date	SSCWD Avg (Range) Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Health Effects Language
Barium (ppm)	28.4 (0.02-0.034) 6-28-02	0.040 (NA) 2-26-03	0.033 (0.027-0.036) 2-26-03	1	1 (2)	Discharges from oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in blood pressure.
Chromium (Total Cr) (ppb)	11 ND-22 6-28-02	2 (NA) 2-17-04	9 (7-11) 2-26-03	50	NA (100)	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who use water containing chromium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience allergic dermatitis.
Nitrate (ppm)	15.4 (3 - 39) 12-2-04	4.3 (4 - 4.6) 3-1-04	15 (8.1-25) 11-3-04	45	45 (NA)	Likely Source of Contaminant Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Health Effects Language (nitrates)	Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. Note: Three of seven City wells and one of the four SSCWD wells sampled for Nitrate in 2004 were above 22 ppm, which is below the MCL of 45 ppm, but exceeds 50% of the MCL, at which quarterly, rather than annual monitoring is required.						
Selenium (ppb)	4.9 (ND-22) 6-28-02	ND (NA) 2-26-03	5 (3-7) 2-26-03	50	NA (50)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)	Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or circulation system problems
Fluoride (ppm)	0.39 (0.26-0.52) 6-28-02	0.11 (NA) 2-17-04	0.290 (0.22-0.36) 2-26-03	2	1 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits	Health Effects Language
Health Effects Language (fluoride)	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4000 ppb over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2000 ppb may get mottled teeth. Mottling (dental fluorosis) may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.						

Table 4 - Secondary Drinking Water Standards						
Water Source → Percent Flow →	COH Wells 69%	LESSALT 24%	SSCWD 7%	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Likely Source of Contaminant
Contaminant (Reporting Units)	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date			
Aluminum (ppb)	ND (NA) 5-20-03	80 (NA) 2-17-04	ND (NA) 2-26-03	200	NA (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits
Color (units)	0.25 (ND - 4) Monthly	15 ♦ (see Note pg 7) 2-17-04	ND (NA) 2-26-03	15	NA (NA)	Naturally-occurring organic materials COH results are from monthly samples of distribution system.
Iron (ppb)	79 (ND - 250) 12-2-04	110 (NA) 2-17-04	ND (NA) 2-26-03	300	NA (NA)	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Turbidity (NTU Units)	0.20 (0.08 - 1.8) Monthly	0.03 (0.03-0.04) 12-31-04	0.13 (0.12-0.14) 2-26-03	5	NA (NA)	Soil runoff COH results are from monthly samples of distribution system.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	627 (150 - 968) 12-2-04	300 (NA) 2-17-04	775 (740-800) 2-26-03	1000	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1088 (330 - 1540) 12-2-04	500 (NA) 2-17-04	1235 (1210-1260) 2-26-03	1600	NA (NA)	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	83 (26 - 163) 12-2-04	76 (NA) 2-17-04	96 (90-100) 2-26-03	500	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	179 (22 - 285) 12-2-04	43 (NA) 2-17-04	240 (200-270) 2-26-03	500	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

Table 5 - Information Provided for Detected Unregulated Chemicals with no MCL

Water Source → Percent Flow →	COH Wells 69%	LESSALT 24%	SSCWD Wells 7%	Notification Level (NL)	Health Effects Language
Constituents (Reporting Units)	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date		
Boron (PPM)	0.76 (0.3 - 0.97) 12-2-04	0.2 (0.2-0.2) 10-15-02	0.85 (0.8-1) 11-19-02	1	Some men who drink water containing boron in excess of the action level over many years may experience reproductive effects, based on studies in dogs.
Chromium, Hexavalent (Cr VI) (ppb)	7 (ND-17) 12-19-02	2 (NA) 2-17-04	9.59 (7-12) 12-17-01	NA	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2.9 (ND - 8) 11-13-03	4 (NA) 1-21-03	4.8 (4-5) 2-26-03	50	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.

Table 6 - Additional Water Quality Information

Water Source → (Percent Flow) →	COH Wells 69%	LESSALT 24%	SSCWD 7%	Water Source (Percent Flow)	COH Wells 69%	LESSALT 24%	SSCWD 7%
Constituents (Reporting Units)	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	Constituents (Reporting Units)	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date	Avg (Range) Date
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) (ppm)	334 (107-517) 12-2-04	100 (NA) 2-17-04	393 (370-420) 2-26-03	Potassium (K) (ppm)	2.4 (0.9 - 2.9) 12-2-04	2.9 (NA) 2-17-04	1.1 (1.0-1.2) 2-26-03
Calcium (Ca) (ppm)	51 (33 - 70) 12-2-04	21 (NA) 2-17-04	70 (56-83) 2-26-03	Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃) (ppm)	264 (90 - 370) 12-2-04	80 (NA) 2-17-04	295 (280-310) 2-26-03
Magnesium (Mg) (ppm)	50 (6 - 83) 12-2-04	12 (NA) 2-17-04	53 (48-56) 2-26-03	Bicarbonate (HCO ₃) (ppm)	323 (110-451) 12-2-04	80 (NA) 2-17-04	295 (280-310) 2-26-03
Sodium (Na) (ppm)	98 (20 - 149) 12-2-04	48 (NA) 2-17-04	84 (78-90) 2-26-03	pH (Laboratory) (units)	7.5 (6.6 - 7.9) 12-2-04	8.3 (7.9-8.6) 12-27-04	7.8 (7.7-8.0) 2-26-03
MTBE (ppm)	ND 11-13-03	ND 1-23-03	ND 12-17-01	Perchlorate (ppm)	ND 11-13-03	ND 1-23-03	ND 12-17-01

Table 7 - Treatment of Surface Water Source LESSALT Water Treatment Plant

Treatment Technique (TT) ♦: U S Filter Memcor Microfiltration Treatment Plant	Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, and diarrhea and associated headaches.
Turbidity Performance Standards ♦♦: This standard must be met through the water treatment process	<u>Turbidity of the filtered water must:</u> 1 - Be less than or equal to 0.1 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 - Not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during a year	0.04 NTU
The number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	None
Total Organic Carbon ♦♦♦	3.5 ppm

♦ A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

♦♦ Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

♦♦♦ Total organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of cancer.

◆ Surface Water treated at the LESSALT Water Treatment Plant during winter months enters the distribution system close to the Secondary Drinking Water Standard MCL of 15 color units. Colored water may result from the presence of metallic ions (iron, manganese, and copper), organic matter of vegetable or soil origin, or industrial wastes. The most common colors occurring in surface water are yellow and brown.

<u>2004 Water Production</u> 1,360,269,822 Total Gallons 6037 Accounts △ 5204 Single-family Residential △△ 222 Multi-family Residential 539 Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional	2004 Average Monthly Water use per Single Family Residence = 1,553 Cubic Feet or 11,618 Gallons	
	<u>Lowest Production Month</u> (January) 8,760,561 Cubic Feet or 65.529 Million Gallons	<u>Highest Production Month</u> (August) 22,908,866 Cubic Feet or 171.358 Million Gallons
<u>2004 Water Consumption</u> 1,296,175,500 Total Gallons = 173,285,495 Total Cubic Feet = 3,977.83 Acre-Feet	<u>Lowest Use Month</u> (April) Single-family Residential 35,604,800 gallons or 228 gallons/day/residence	<u>Highest Use Month</u> (September) Single-family Residential 84,265,192 gallons or 540 gallons/day/residence
1 Cubic Foot = 7.48 Gallons ◆ 100 Cubic Feet = 748 Gallons ◆ 1 Acre Foot = 325,828 Gallons		

SUMMARY

As you can see from the tables above, the City of Hollister water system had no violation in 2004. We're proud that your drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing program that although some contaminants are detectable, they occur below maximum allowable levels.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U S Environmental Protection Agency and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html and California Department of Health Services web site www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/default.htm

We at the City of Hollister Water System work to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mark Clifford or Jim Hart** at (831) 636-4377. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about their water utility. If you wish to learn more, look on our web site: www.hollister.ca.gov or please attend any of our regularly scheduled Council meetings in City Hall at 375 Fifth Street, at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month.

WATER CONSERVATION *Services to Help You Save Water and Save Money*

The City of Hollister Water System is an active participant in the **Water Resources Association of San Benito County**. One of the main programs of the Association is Water Conservation. The following activities are available and water-saving ideas provided to our customers for the benefit of all:

- ◆ Free Ultra Low Flow Toilets replace toilets older than 1991, for residential and commercial customers.
- ◆ Free home & landscape water audits, which evaluate your sprinkler systems and help to detect leaks. Includes free showerheads, aerator screens, garden hose nozzles, and water conservation literature.
- ◆ High-efficiency washing machine rebate of \$100.00 is offered for residential customers.
- ◆ Wash full loads of clothes or dishes; sweep, don't wash down driveways, sidewalks or gutters.
- ◆ Find and fix leaks (a leaky toilet or faucet can waste *thousands of gallons* annually).
- ◆ For additional information and assistance on the above Water Conservation Program and Activities call the Water Conservation Specialist at: (831) 637-4378 or Web site: www.sbcwd.com (click on water conservation).

***PLEASE USE WATER WISELY AND HELP PRESERVE THIS PRECIOUS RESOURCE FOR OUR FUTURE,
AS WE ALSO REDUCE EXCESS FLOWS TO THE CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.***

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are the answers to some commonly asked water questions.

IS MY WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Water supplied by the City of Hollister Water System meets stringent State and Federal regulations to ensure its' safety. These regulations require regular monitoring of all public water systems, and a yearly report to consumers to summarize water quality.

HOW HARD IS OUR WATER?

Water hardness is due to dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium and occurs naturally in water supplies. Though hard or soft water is not clearly defined, typically, levels of dissolved Calcium Carbonate (CaCO₃) in water above 130 ppm or 8 grains per gallon, is considered hard and can cause scale to build up in pipes, on faucets, and leave white spots on dishware. The City's source water hardness ranges from 100 to 517 ppm with an average of ~20 grains per gallon. Please use "On-Demand" or "Replaceable Cartridge-type" water softeners, set to 20 grains, to reduce needless regeneration and lower salt discharge to sewer.

WHY DOES MY WATER LOOK YELLOW/BROWN?

The surface water source at times has trace amounts of dissolved Iron and Manganese, which may cause a yellow/brown color in the water, usually most visible in white bathtubs, sinks or toilets. This condition does not constitute a health risk and flushing your water pipes will often remedy the situation. Another source of color can be naturally occurring organic materials.

WHY DOES MY WATER LOOK CLOUDY OR MILKY?

Cloudy or milky water is usually due to air bubbles in the water. Distribution pipes carry water under pressure, which keeps air dissolved in the water. These bubbles initially make a glass of water appear cloudy, but will slowly rise and the water turns clear.

WHY DOES MY DRINKING WATER TASTE OR SMELL FUNNY?

Taste comes from the minerals dissolved in the water. The two most common reasons for poor tasting or smelling water are:

- Chlorine odor or taste is normally a result of the chlorine required to disinfect the water supply. If the smell is particularly strong, leave the water in an open container for the chlorine to dissipate. A residential carbon filter element can improve this.
- A rotten-egg odor in water is caused by hydrogen sulfide, (non-toxic in small amounts), dissolved in the water and usually coming from the hot water faucet. A remedy is to slightly turn up the temperature in your water heater. Periodic draining of the water heater is recommended, and may help. Also, if you let the water flush for a few seconds, the smell may disappear.

IS FLUORIDE ADDED TO OUR DRINKING WATER?

No, fluoride is not added to the City's water supply. However, it does occur naturally, and is present at 0.26 to 0.52 mg. per liter.



CITY OF HOLLISTER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – UTILITY DIVISION
375 Fifth Street - Hollister, CA 95023-3876

City Telephone Contact Information

- Call **636-4377** (7:30AM to 4:30PM).....To request water shut-off or turn-on for routine repairs, to report water emergencies or leaks in lines, at water meters, or to ask questions about water quality or conservation.
{ *Utility Office* }
- Call **636-4356** (8:00AM to 5:00PM) To report illegal discharge to sewers, serious water waste or other violations of the Hollister Municipal Code.
{ *Code Enforcement Officer* }
- Call **636-4330** (4:30PM to 7:30AM).....To request after-hour water shut-off, turn-on, or to report water or sewer emergencies.
{ *Dispatcher* }
- Call **636-4301** (9:30AM to 4:00PM).....To establish or discontinue water service, or to ask about water and/or sewer bills.
{ *Finance Dept.* }
- Call **636-4377** (7:30AM to 4:30PM).....To report sanitary sewer overflows, back-ups, odors or other problems. Call your plumber for sewer blockage or back-ups in your house line.
{ *Utility Office* }
- Call **636-4370** (7:30AM to 4:30PM).....To report problems with storm drains, trees, sidewalks, City streets or graffiti.
{ *Community Services* }
- Call **637-4378** (8:00AM to 5:00PM).....To request water conservation information or a water-conservation audit for your home or business.
{ *Water Conservation Office of WRA* }